

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Inside the Pentagon

By Drew Pearson

Here is the inside reason why Operation Alert was scheduled to test civil defense at the very time when the West is about to talk peace with Russia. The whole exercise was deliberately timed to build up public support in favor of the talks with Russia. The President and his advisers believed the spectacle of thousands of Government officials evacuating Washington to avoid a make-believe hydrogen attack would demonstrate the wisdom of trying to avoid a horrible new war by talks around the conference table. The exercise was originally scheduled to take place last year as part of "Operation Candor" . . . Secretary of Health Oveta Culp Hobby prepared to "rough it" during the H-bomb evacuation test by going without her nylon stockings. However, she wore a pair of immaculate white gloves. . . The first atomic aircraft engine will be completed in ten months and ready for ground tests. . . America's first atomic-powered submarine, the Nautilus, will soon cross the Atlantic entirely under water. It won't surface once, its speed—over 25 miles an hour. . . For a long time the military have wanted to run their own spy work instead of pooling it all under Allen Dulles and Central Intelligence. Now the National Security Council has ordered Central Intelligence to transfer some of its intelligence functions to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In fact, the Joint Chiefs have already assigned five super-secret officers to direct the new intelligence work.